

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AALL PRESIDENT

Hello AALL Members,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. Although we are somewhat in a state of flux with the pandemic, it does feel as if we are beginning to emerge from the shadow of COVID-19. Some of us have returned to our workplaces, others continue to work from home, but one thing is certain—all of us are still hard at work. As your AALL President, I am excited to share with you that AALL continues to work hard to provide you with the resources you need to continue to be successful.

One of the main goals of the AALL Executive Board is to continue to listen to you. Hence, I would like to thank all the members who attended the "Virtual Coffee Chat: Check in with Your AALL Executive Board" on October 19. I enjoyed discussing the workings of the Board and hearing your comments and ideas. For those of you who missed the chat, the [2021-2022 AALL Executive Board will meet in-person November 4-6 in Chicago](#) and we will host an [AALL Connection on Wednesday, November 17, 2021—registration is now open](#). I hope you will register and join us for an overview of the Board meeting and use this opportunity as another chance to ask questions.

We are currently in the third year of our [2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#) and the Board is now working on a new Strategic Plan for 2022-2025. It is an exciting opportunity to strategize on the next three years and determine where AALL should be focusing its resources. We have solicited important input from SIS, Chapter, and Caucus leadership, and look forward to hearing from the membership as well throughout the planning year. We will spend time with a consultant at the November Board meeting brainstorming a draft strategic plan, in addition to conducting the Board meeting. You can find the Board Book containing the agenda and all relevant documents, including reports from AALL leadership, on [AALLNET](#).

In an effort to improve communication within AALL, I have appointed a Board liaison for the first time to the [AALL Spectrum Editorial Board](#). Michelle Hook Dewey is currently the liaison. For a list of all board liaisons to committees and juries, please visit the [AALL Committees and Juries](#) page on [AALLNET](#).

The [Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Awareness \(IDEA\) Special Committee](#), which is reviewing diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts and opportunities within AALL and law librarianship, continues their work for a second year. I hope you had a chance to read the committee report detailing their first-year findings in Tab 7 of the [July 2021 Executive Board Book](#). The Committee also submitted a progress report in the [November Board Book](#).

I am excited that the new [Advancing Access to Justice \(AA2J\) Special Committee](#) is now hard at work reviewing opportunities to promote the work of law librarians and legal information professionals and our vital role in access to justice. Chaired by [Pauline Afuso](#), the Committee's charge is to promote law librarians and legal information professionals and their vital role in access to justice by providing timely authoritative legal information resources and services. By completing its charge, the special committee will advance AALL's core values including its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and efforts; equitable and permanent public access to trustworthy legal information; and continuous improvement in access to justice. The Committee is also tasked with updating the [AALL State Online Legal Information](#) and with recommending member generated and other public resources on a single public facing page on AALLNET.

I am currently working with AALL Executive Director, Vani Ungapen, and the Board and Committees to review the recommendations of the Law Librarianship as a Career Guidance Review Special Committee, to determine how to best utilize our resources to create a diverse and inclusive pipeline to law librarianship and the legal information profession. This may include partnering with other organizations in addition to partnering with our members. This is important for the future of our profession, and I look forward to sharing more information on this soon.

The next AALL [call for volunteers will be sent out November 15 and will run through December 15, 2021](#). The volunteers appointed will begin their terms in July 2022, at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting & Conference. For more information on volunteering, please see my [President's Message](#) in the November/December issue of *AALL Spectrum* and register for the [upcoming "AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: Learn More About Volunteering for AALL," to be held on December 7, 2021](#). Volunteering is a rewarding way to engage with your colleagues and further the strategic plans of AALL and the profession.

We continue to monitor developments around COVID-19 safety with the CDC and Denver as we look toward the [2022 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#). The theme for the conference is “Advancing Justice for All” and I truly hope to see all of you in Denver in July, if we can safely do so. I want to thank all of you who participated in IdeaScale to contribute to our “[must have](#)” [program topics](#). [The 2022 call for proposals is currently open through November 30, 2021](#).

We want to hear from you! Please continue to send your comments and suggestions about anything you think we should know. In this strategic planning year, we especially want to hear about the issues most important to you and our profession. You can contact me directly at [diane.m.rodriguez@sfgov.org](mailto:diane.m.rodriguez@sfgov.org) or [president@aall.org](mailto:president@aall.org).

I am honored and excited to serve as your President this year. Thank you for this opportunity and your time.



Diane M. Rodriguez  
AALL President

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